Assistance for marine exports

1768. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MPEDA has made any provisions for frozen containers to transport shrimp and other products to the ports for export;

(b) if so, details of the assistance that MPEDA is giving to the exporters;

(c) the steps MPEDA proposes to encourage export of shrimp from new areas;

(d) the details of the measures proposed to encourage all coastal areas to export marine products; and

(e) the targets set by MPEDA for the year 2004-05?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) has been providing financial assistance to the exporters of marine products to acquire refrigerated/ insulated vehicles for transporting frozen seafood from the fish landing centres to the processing factories and for transporting the frozen cargo from factories to the seaports for loading on to the ocean liners.

(c) and (d) In order to encourage the export of shrimp from the new areas, MPEDA has been providing financial assistance and technical support to the shrimp farmers/exporters. For increasing brackish water and fresh water shrimp production, MPEDA is implementing a few schemes as follows:

(i) Subsidy for new farm development

(ii) Subsidy for setting up of new shrimp and scampi hatcheries

(iii) Subsidy for setting up of effluent treatment system in farms

(iv) Subsidy for setting up Polymerised Chain Reaction (PCR) labs (for early detection of viral diseases) in hatcheries

(v) Subsidy for procurement of water testing kits for shrimp farms

(vi) Subsidy for setting up chilled room near farm areas

(vii) Training and inter-State study tour of farmers.

For promotion of aquaculture, the following thrust areas have been identified by the MPEDA:

I. Bringing additional area under culture; and

II. Making acquaculture sustainable through (i) disease prevention and control through food farm and health management; and (ii) environmental management and eco-friendly farming practices.

(e) A target of US $ 1300 million has been fixed for export of marine products from India during 2004-05.

Extension of political risk cover for FDI and overseas projects

1769. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to extend political risk cover for FDI and the projects abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a decision would be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) Overseas Investment Insurance Scheme operated by the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation Ltd., a Government of India enterprise, provides protection for Indian Investments abroad. Investment made by way of equity capital or untied loan for the purpose of setting up or expansion of overseas projects is eligible for cover under the Overseas Investment Insurance Scheme. The risks of war, expropriation and restriction on remittances are covered under this scheme.

Foreign capital investment

t1770. SHRI MOTILAL .VORA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister has invited the Non-Resident Indians to invests in India;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.